

## VERMONT STATE TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.

The annual convention of the Vermont State Temperance Society opened at Rutland on Wednesday afternoon.

The convention was called to order by Rev. L. A. Dunn of Fairfax, President of the Society, when prayer was offered by Rev. Alden Walker, D. D., of Wallingford.

Hon. E. D. Warner, Chairman of the State Executive Committee, submitted his report.

The interesting points of his report were that the present committee, like the one of last year, have not accomplished much for want of funds, that the State Agent in obedience to instructions, during the past year has "directed his operations against the 'respectable' class, whose 'respectable' men are respectively ruined," that while the largest success has been attained in St. Albans—Bellevue Falls, Bennington and Manchester have also been blessed by the work of the State Agent.

Following this came the report of Rev. W. W. Atwater, State Agent of the Society, an interesting and elaborate document, detailing an account of his work as the Society's agent for the past year. A discussion of the report followed.

The evening session of the convention was opened by a voluntary choir in attendance, after which a prayer was offered by Rev. Wm. N. Bacon of Shrewsbury.

Rev. Harvey D. Kitchel, D. D., President of Middlebury College, who delivered an address that in style and illustration was worthy his reputation as an eloquent writer and speaker.

The convention also addressed by Rev. Norman Sewer, Hon. C. M. Willard of Castleton, Hon. E. D. Warner of New Haven, and Hon. David E. Nicholson of Rutland.

Thursday morning, Hon. C. M. Willard of Castleton, from the Committee on resolutions, submitted the following, which, after discussion, were adopted:

**Resolved**, That our confidence in the wisdom and efficiency of our law prohibiting the traffic in intoxicating liquors is unimpaired, and we believe that its stern enforcement will sweep this enormous evil from the State.

**Resolved**, That a policy of enforcing the stringent provisions of this law devotes upon the friends of temperance in their respective towns, it is expected that a trust to obviously and instantly connected with the temperance cause, namely, will be benevolently and faithfully discharged.

**Resolved**, That in this hour of seeming retrogression in sister States, we will bear high aloft our standard, and, encouraged by the past, sustained by the underlying principles upon which we stand and animated by the broad charity of the gospel, we will boldly press onward until the great consummation is achieved.

**Resolved**, That our confidence would not relax our own efforts in the temperance movement, yet we must look to the youth for its permanent success; therefore, we would invite the young of both sexes to join hands and hearts with us in this great cause of God and humanity.

In the absence of the Treasurer, Mr. Atwater of Vergennes submitted his annual report to the convention, a report which shows the treasury of the society to be in a healthy condition.

From the report it would seem that the total receipts into the Treasury the past year were but \$507, \$12.50 of which were donated for various purposes, leaving a balance of \$484.50 to be paid the State for its services, including board, travel, lodging and all other expenses for the year.

The committee on nominations reported the following persons as officers for the ensuing year, which report was duly accepted and adopted:

**President**—Hon. E. D. Warner of New Haven.

**Vice-Presidents**—Rev. B. F. Ray, Hartford; Rev. Silas McKean, Bradford; Rev. N. F. Foster, Montpelier.

**Recording Secretary**—Hon. Clark H. Chapman, Cavendish.

**Treasurer**—G. W. Scott, Montpelier.

**Auditor**—Henry Y. Barnes, Montpelier.

**Executive Committee**—Hon. C. M. Willard, Castleton; Z. C. Ellis, Fairhaven; Hiram Roberts, Brandon; Wm. H. Brown, Vergennes; A. D. Hager, Proctorville; Rev. F. W. Olmsted, East Dorset; Dr. L. Sheldon, West Rutland.

Hon. E. D. Warner introduced the following resolution, which was adopted by a unanimous vote:

**Resolved**, That a select committee be authorized to employ a secretary, who shall have an office at some central point, who shall have charge of the general interests of the cause, and who shall receive an adequate salary.

A resolution that such money as may come into the treasury as the fruits of the labor of the past year, and not otherwise appropriated, be devoted to make up the deficiency of the reform fund, the sum of \$1500, effected much discussion, and was finally settled by a vote being passed that the whole matter be referred to the executive committee.

On motion of Hon. E. D. Warner, the following resolution was adopted by the convention:

**Resolved**, That we believe the sum of \$5,000 ought to be raised during the ensuing year to be placed at the disposal of the State Agent for the purpose of employing a suitable secretary and other lecturers and laborers, and the circulation of temperance publications throughout the State, and that we will each endeavor to do our part in raising that sum.

Newman Weeks, Esq., of Rutland, offered the following resolution:

**Resolved**, That as consistent temperance men and women, who are the reformers, are drunkards and the prevention of an appetite for intoxicating drink, we would earnestly discommemorate the use of intoxicating wines at all social parties, at weddings, in the family, and at the communion table.

Rev. Mr. Leavitt of Ferrisburgh moved to amend by striking out the words "at the communion table," which amendment prevailed, and the original resolution was adopted.

After passing a resolution of thanks to Dr. Kitchel, requesting a copy of his address for publication, also resolutions of thanks to the railroads for the courtesy of their passengers, the convention adjourned to the Methodist Society for the use of their church, the convention adjourned sine die.

**THE DISASTER ON THE LAKE SHORE RAILROAD.**—The Buffalo Express of Thursday has the following additional details of the terrible accident on the Lake Shore Railroad:

It is easy to imagine the frightful wreck to which the car was reduced by its terrible descent. All or nearly all its passengers, of course, were precipitated into a mangled, struggling mass at the lower end of the car, buried under a heap of ruins, and even the slightly injured, if any there were, unable to extricate or help themselves.

The horror of the situation was sufficient without that which instantly became added by the igniting of the splintered wreck from the overturned stove, a momentary fire, which, as the three slow survivors described it, and the whole was wrapped in flames. Who can attempt to depict the unimaginable horror of the scene that ensued? Nearly fifty human beings being roasted in death, or in the agony of death, and the bodies of the dead or in the full vigor of life, buried in an inextinguishable position and committed to the flames without hope of rescue. The shrieks, the groans, the imprecations—let those who heard them forget them! The scene was a horror to behold.

The second car, in the meantime—the car first thrown from the track and plunged over the opposite side of the embankment, falling a less height, but suffering almost as complete a wreck, and its few uninjured passengers had enough to occupy their attention. The train, which had run some distance before it stopped, was wrecked to the scene as speedily as possible, and those on board set to work with promptitude and energy. But the steep and ice-covered slope to the car, most horrible situation, was such that the car could not be moved, and when help hands reached it they were without weapons for fighting the flames or for breaking into the wreck.

As soon, of course, as they could be summoned, the people of Angola and nearest inhabitants rushed to the spot, and it was not long before many buckets were employed in pouring water upon the burning wreck; but a raging fire is not to be overcome with buckets, and those desperately laboring at the work had to suffer the unpeakable anguish of seeing their efforts made utterly vain.

The hideous, remorseless flames creased on; the shrieks died into groans, and those who were left were more terrible, as the pall of death drew over the scene. Except one little fragment of the side of the car, nothing but a heap of smoking cinders was left for those gathered round to search into with sickened hearts.

As we have already stated, the car next the rear one was that with which the disaster originated, but its fate was less terrible than the fate of the car following. The headlong plunge of the latter threw it over, but not until the bridge had been passed, and it made its descent on the opposite or right side of the embankment, where the height was not more than twenty-five feet. The crash was only less awful than that already described. It was not followed, however, by the more frightful calamity of the fire. Twice the car was kindled by the coals from the broken stove, but the passengers were in less helpless situation, and the flames were extinguished.

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## Watchman &amp; State Journal.

## BY E. F. WALTON.

MONTEPIER, DECEMBER 25, 1867.

## WATCHMAN &amp; STATE JOURNAL, FOR 1868.

Republican in politics, but independent of cliques. For sometime past the mode of conducting this paper has been somewhat changed, giving elaborate political editorials and speeches only when the public may be well served or interested thereby; and giving more space than formerly to current domestic and foreign news, tales (one nearly every week, except during the session of the legislature), agriculture, and other miscellaneous matter. Terms, \$2.00 a year in advance, or \$3.00 at the end of the year. To clubs of twenty or more, commencing Jan. 1, 1868, and paying strictly in advance, \$1.80 per copy. Old arrears must be paid before going into a club.

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E. F. WALTON, Publisher.

Montpelier, Nov. 21, 1867.

A PREMIUM TO SUBSCRIBERS TO THE WATCHMAN.—Any subscriber who pays up arrears and \$3.00 in advance for 1868, will be entitled to a copy of one of the best and most popular books of the day, sent postpaid, viz., "Carpenter's 'Inner Life of Abraham Lincoln,' or Six Months at the White House." The subscription price of the book is \$1.50, and the premium to each subscriber is therefore half a dollar. Those who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity will please notify us immediately.

ADVANCED ACTION OF TENNESSEE.—By the bill which has recently passed both houses of the Tennessee legislature, abolishing all political distinctions of color or race, that State places itself in the front rank of the most advanced and liberal members of the Union.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—The President's message, which was read to the Tennessee legislature, abolishing all political distinctions of color